

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 28, and 29 as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

1. (currently amended): A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising: retrieving, through a management system, a current set of identifiers from a network device;

said identifiers comprising at least ~~one physical identifier~~ two physical identifiers and at least one logical identifier; and

authenticating an identity of the network device using the current set of identifiers.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management system comprises a network management system (NMS).

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the management system comprises a command line interface (CLI).

4. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein prior to retrieving, through [a] the management system, [a] the current set of identifiers from [a] the network device, the method further comprises:

connecting the management system to the network device using a network address assigned to the network device.

5. (currently amended): The method of claim [1] 4, wherein the network ~~device~~ address assigned to the network device comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address and said logical identifier comprises the IP address.

6. (currently amended): A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising: detecting a request to add a network device to the telecommunications network;

retrieving an initial set of at least two physical identifiers from the network device;  
storing the initial set of identifiers in a storage unit accessible by a management system;  
retrieving, through the management system, a current set of at least two physical identifiers from the network device; and  
authenticating an identity of the network device using the current set of identifiers said authenticating step comprising:  
comparing the retrieved current set of identifiers with the stored initial set of identifiers;  
and  
authenticating the identity of the network device if at least one of the retrieved current identifiers matches at least one of the stored initial identifiers.

7. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein if the network device identity is authenticated, the method further comprises:

updating the stored initial set of identifiers with any of the retrieved current identifiers that do not match the stored initial identifiers.

8. (currently amended): The method of claim 6, further comprising:

posting a user notification indicating failed authentication if at least one of the retrieved current identifiers does not match at least one of the stored initial identifiers.

9. (original): The method of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving a user authentication of the network device identity; and  
replacing the stored initial set of identifiers with the retrieved current set of identifiers.

10. (original): The method of claim 8, further comprising:

detecting a user supplied new network address for the network device; and  
updating a record associated with the network device with the new network address.

11. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein storing the initial set of identifiers comprises adding the identifiers to an Administration Managed Device table in a management system data repository.

12. (currently amended): A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:  
detecting a request to add a network device to the telecommunications network;  
retrieving an initial set of at least two physical identifiers from the network device;  
converting the initial set of identifiers into a first composite value; and  
storing the first composite value in a storage unit accessible by a management system;  
retrieving, through [a] the management system, a current set of at least two physical identifiers from [a] the network device; and  
authenticating an identity of the network device using the current set of identifiers;  
wherein authenticating an identity of the network device using the current set of identifiers comprises, for each retrieved identifier:  
dividing the first composite value by one of the retrieved identifiers to form a division result;  
converting the remaining retrieved identifiers into a second composite value;  
comparing the division result to the second composite value; and  
authenticating the identity of the network device if at least one of the division results matches one of the second composite values.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended): The method of claim [1] 12, wherein the ~~set of identifiers comprise logical identifiers~~ wherein the initial set of identifiers and the current set of identifiers further comprise at least one logical identifier.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended): The method of claim [13] 12, wherein the physical identifiers comprise at least one Media Access Control (MAC) addresse[s].

17. (currently amended): The method of claim [13] 12, wherein the network device includes an internal bus and wherein the physical identifiers comprise at least one internal addresse[s] used for communication over the internal bus.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended): The method of claim [13] 12, wherein each of the physical identifiers is associated with a card within the network device.

20. (original): The method of claim 19, wherein each of the physical identifiers comprises a serial number for the associated card.

21. (original): The method of claim 20, wherein each of the physical identifiers further comprises a part number for the associated card.

22. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving [a] the current set of identifiers from the network device comprises:

reading the current set of identifiers from a plurality of non-volatile memories located on a plurality of cards within the network device.

23. (original): The method of claim 22, wherein the plurality of non-volatile memories comprise registers.

24. (original): The method of claim 22, wherein the plurality of non-volatile memories comprise programmable read only memories (PROMs).

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended): A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:  
connecting a management system to a network device using a network address assigned  
to the network device;  
retrieving a current set of at least two physical identifiers from a network device; and  
authenticating an identity of the network device using the current set of at least two  
physical identifiers.

29. (currently amended): A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:  
authenticating an identity of a network device using a current set of at least two physical  
identifiers retrieved from the network device and a stored set of at least two physical identifiers  
associated with the network device; and  
updating the stored set of identifiers when at least one but not all of the current identifiers  
match the stored identifiers.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

Please cancel Claims 13, 15, 18, 25-27, and 30-33 as indicated above, without prejudice  
or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits.